



# WHATELY

## Franklin County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Whately is the southernmost town in Franklin County and was named for a friend of Governor Hutchinson, Thomas Whately. Established in 1771, the town's economy was at first completely agricultural but an abundance of water power allowed the development of industries in the 18th and 19th centuries, beginning with the building of grist and saw mills. These industries expanded and textiles became one of the products of the town. Woolen mills functioned side-by-side with chair and coffin factories, while the discovery of bog iron ore led to the development of iron works. In the meanwhile, tobacco became a cash crop and leaf drying barns built in the 19th and early 20th century to prepare the product for cigar and cigarette making, still dot the countryside. Clay found in Whately was also used to manufacture pottery.

The modern history of the town has shown a shift in its economy toward recreational uses with agriculture, especially the production of maple sugar products, as one of the major remaining businesses. Servicing campers is a seasonal business for townspeople, there are bed and breakfast operators and there is potential for developing winter vacation homes close to area ski areas.

Whately is the home of the Smith College Observatory, which is located at the summit of Poplar Hill. The observatory is used by the students of the Five College Program which involves distinguished colleges and universities in the western part of the state, including Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith and the University of Massachusetts. Presently, Whately has become the home of a number of artists and craftsmen who value its beauty and small town character. The town is proud of its local history exhibits at the S. White Dickinson Library and its monthly displays of the artworks and crafts of local artists.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Hatfield on the south, Williamsburg on the southwest and west, Conway and Deerfield on the north, and separated by the Connecticut River from Sunderland on the east. Whately is 11 miles south of Greenfield and 99 miles west of Boston.

**Total Area:** 20.66 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 20.18 sq. miles

**Population:** 1,375

**Density:** 68 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Amherst Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.5"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Williamsburg, Mt. Toby

## Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 665-4400

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1771

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	957		
Democrats	315	32.9	%
Republicans	167	17.5	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	475	49.6	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Whately town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,573	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,573	100.0
Male.....	790	50.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	18	1.1
Female.....	783	49.8	Mexican.....	6	0.4
Under 5 years.....	70	4.5	Puerto Rican.....	10	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	101	6.4	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	109	6.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	2	0.1
15 to 19 years.....	104	6.6	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,555	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	55	3.5	White alone.....	1,532	97.4
25 to 34 years.....	166	10.6	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	309	19.6	Total population.....	1,573	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	317	20.2	In households.....	1,563	99.4
55 to 59 years.....	92	5.8	Householder.....	629	40.0
60 to 64 years.....	56	3.6	Spouse.....	350	22.3
65 to 74 years.....	97	6.2	Child.....	443	28.2
75 to 84 years.....	73	4.6	Own child under 18 years.....	330	21.0
85 years and over.....	24	1.5	Other relatives.....	42	2.7
Median age (years).....	41.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	6	0.4
18 years and over.....	1,230	78.2	Nonrelatives.....	99	6.3
Male.....	619	39.4	Unmarried partner.....	49	3.1
Female.....	611	38.8	In group quarters.....	10	0.6
21 years and over.....	1,175	74.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	223	14.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	10	0.6
65 years and over.....	194	12.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	84	5.3	Total households.....	629	100.0
Female.....	110	7.0	Family households (families).....	425	67.6
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	186	29.6
One race.....	1,564	99.4	Married-couple family.....	350	55.6
White.....	1,541	98.0	With own children under 18 years.....	152	24.2
Black or African American.....	8	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	45	7.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	22	3.5
Asian.....	8	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	204	32.4
Asian Indian.....	3	0.2	Householder living alone.....	148	23.5
Chinese.....	4	0.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	54	8.6
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	192	30.5
Japanese.....	1	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	140	22.3
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.48	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.96	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	652	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	629	96.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	23	3.5
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	5	0.8
Some other race.....	5	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	9	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	629	100.0
White.....	1,549	98.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	525	83.5
Black or African American.....	11	0.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	104	16.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	6	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.55	(X)
Asian.....	8	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.16	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	8	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where Whately is located, are State Route 2 and Interstate Route 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway (the former Boston and Maine) lines parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 5 and Interstate Route 91, both running N-S.

### Rail

The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service on its Connecticut Valley line through Whately. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

### Bus

Whately is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). There is no fixed route service, but FRTA provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the GMTA.

### Other

The LaFleur Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in nearby Northampton, has a 3,506'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.